



Park Ways

Volume 5, Issue 3

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Fall/Winter 1999

Home for the Holidays

This winter, warm up with one of Cincinnati's favorite holiday traditions — the Cincinnati Parks' annual Holiday Show, *A Cincinnati Holiday at Krohn Conservatory*.

In celebration of the city's festive spirit, Krohn Conservatory transforms its Showroom into a winter wonderland under glass. Bring family and friends to Krohn's creation of a festive winter landscape made merry with miniature trains, sparkling lights, brilliant poinsettias and a live nativity scene, sponsored by Western-Southern Life Insurance Company.

Throughout the Holiday Show, Krohn Conservatory has extended hours. The Show is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily from November 25 through December 30 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from December 31 through January 2. For more information, call (513) 421-5707. ♦



Thousands of poinsettias decorate the Showroom during the Holiday Show.

Holiday Show Events

Crèche
December 3 - January 2

Tree Lighting
December 3

Evergreen Advisor
December 4

A Craft at Krohn
December 9

An Interview with Jack C. Wilson

This past summer, the Cincinnati Park Board bid farewell to Jack C. Wilson, former Director of Cincinnati Parks, as he was leaving Cincinnati for a new position after 11 years with the organization. His new position as Executive Director for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, allows him to build on his 25 years of experience with parks and natural resource and recreation management.

Before leaving office, Wilson discussed his tenure with Cincinnati Parks and his vision for the system and himself.

What brought you to Cincinnati Parks in 1989?

I fell in love with Cincinnati Parks my first day in the city. The combination of a variety of elements, including the system's historical significance, abundance of greenspace and balanced geography, comprises one of the most dynamic urban park environments in the country.

What do you view as your most significant accomplishments during your career with Cincinnati Parks?

I believe the development of the strategic long-term Master Plan, *Planting the Future*, is one of Parks' highlights in the last 11 years. This project brought together a shared vision with the community and established a road map for the park system's

future. Through *Planting the Future*, we positively impacted every Cincinnati park, making each one more functional and aesthetically pleasing. In addition, we developed new funding mechanisms to assure high quality maintenance of Parks. We established the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, built public and private partnerships and explored entrepreneurial financial strategies.



Jack C. Wilson

How do you envision the future of Cincinnati Parks?

Throughout the last decade, we have made conscious decisions that proved to the community that we can take care of what we have. The Park Board now has the opportunity to build on this strong rapport and continue the momentum to improve Parks. Under the guidance of the new director, Parks must continue to evaluate and modify the Master Plan to uphold the community's vision. I also recommend that Parks continues to provide leadership in the design and development of the Central Riverfront Park, which is the most significant component of all the elements on the riverfront. Third, the Park Board must explore alternative revenue sources to make plans, such as the riverfront park, a reality.

What encouraged you to move on to the Tacoma Metro Park District?

Tacoma offered me an opportunity to meet one of my career objectives — to be associated with a truly independent and autonomous organization. In this new position, all of the support functions and system-wide disciplines are under Metro Park's control. In addition, the Tacoma Metro Park District is a combination of parks and recreation, unlike Cincinnati. This move also is personally motivated; I've always been fascinated with the Pacific Northwest and its incredible natural resources.

How did your time with Cincinnati Parks impact you?

Cincinnati Parks are central to the quality of life in this city and it has been very rewarding for me to serve this community. Professionally, I was exposed to many challenging situations and I am more confident in my ability to provide guidance during future projects. I also enhanced my management techniques by working with a staff that showed immense dedication to their jobs and gave me the support I needed to get the job done. Personally, I have made lasting friendships that I cherish dearly. ♦



We never
understand how
little we need in
this world until
we know the
loss of it.

-Margaret Ogilvy

A Show of Plenty

Krohn Conservatory welcomes the bountiful season with its annual Fall Show, on display now through November 14. This year's exhibit, *Harvest Moon*, invites visitors to travel back in time to autumns of years past. The Show features an antique farm wagon laden with autumn produce, evoking images of harvest times of yesteryear. A country garden with hardy chrysanthemums, asters, ornamental grasses, perennials and herbs completes the transformation of Krohn Conservatory into an old-fashioned harvest celebration.

During the Fall Show, the Park Board presents the 2nd annual *Bugfest* on October 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bug enthusiasts are invited to come to Krohn Conservatory and learn about nature's creepy crawlers through interactive and entertaining programs, displays and exotic insect cuisine demonstrations and

sampling. Cheer your favorite roach on to victory at Roach Hill Downs or feast on a Chocolate Chirpie Cookie! Admission to *Bugfest* is \$1 per person.

Krohn Conservatory is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesdays until 6 p.m. For more information on *Harvest Moon* and Krohn's other fall exhibits, call (513) 421-5707. ♦



Returning for a second year at Krohn, Bugfest will feature giant hand-crafted bugs made of recycled materials found throughout the Parks system. Pictured here are ArtWorks students — designers of these larger-than-life creatures — as they put the final touches on a 17-foot dragonfly.

Fall Show Events

Bonsai Fall Exhibit
October 9 & 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

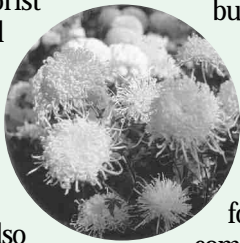
Arachno-Rhythm
October 26, 7 - 9 p.m.

Bugfest
October 30 & 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nature Notes

Fall invites you to enjoy the colorful transformation of Mother Nature's garden. With this seasonal change comes the need to prepare your own garden for the approaching cool weather. Mt. Airy Arboretum Florist Paula Miller has several tips to make the most out of your garden through winter:

- After the first frost, cut back perennials and remove annuals. Fall also is a great time to prune your shrubs. Cutting and trimming now keeps your garden looking its best through the naked winter months and prevents a troublesome garden in the spring.



Above: Chrysanthemums are the perfect addition to a fall garden.

- Do not to cut back ornamental grasses until spring. You'll appreciate them when the cold months drive away the rest of your garden's foliage.
- Plant tulips, daffodils and other bulbs throughout October and November to get an early burst of color with the return of warmer weather.
- Fall leaves are perfect for compost. Create a compost pile, and by springtime you will have rich mulch to spread in your garden.

For information on Cincinnati Parks' fall and winter nature programs, call 352-4080. ♦

Explore the Parks

Temple of Love — Mt. Storm Park

The land which now makes up Mt. Storm Park in Clifton once housed the estate of Robert Bonner Bowler, former Mayor of Clifton. The Prince of Wales, Charles Dickens and other 19th-century celebrities are among those who were once entertained at the magnificent Bowler estate. The Temple of Love actually functioned as the cover for the cistern that held water for the 17 greenhouses, gardens, orchards, a waterfall and a swan lake on the estate. The Corinthian-style columns support a domed roof, creating a classically-inspired pavilion. ♦



Temple of Love, Mt. Storm Park

Projects in the Parks

Parks Scores High with Survey Respondents

Early this year, the Cincinnati Park Board conducted two surveys — a public opinion research study and a *ParkWays* readership survey — as part of a comprehensive review and analysis of Cincinnati Parks programs, services and communication methods.

The public opinion research study, completed with the assistance of Communications in the Public Interest and John Fox Marketing Consulting, was designed to help identify and prioritize growth and improvement opportunities and determine levels of public support for various approaches to future funding of Cincinnati Parks. The survey included 600 telephone interviews of registered voters, comprised of 400 Cincinnati residents and 200 non-city, Hamilton County residents.

The data gathered from the public opinion research study was very positive among both city and county residents. Highlights of the results include the following:

What you thought...

- 94% of Cincinnati residents rated their most-visited Cincinnati park “good” or “excellent” overall.
- 2/3rds of Cincinnati interviewees mentioned a Cincinnati park as the

park they visited the most often, with Eden Park, Ault Park and Mt. Airy Forest as the three “most-visited” parks.

Prioritizing...

- From nine factors tested, interviewees placed the highest level of importance on “keeping parks free,” followed by “preserving nature” and “beautifying the city.”
- The strongest determinant of overall opinions about most-visited parks were the parks’ levels of cleanliness and care/maintenance.

How you use the Parks...

- From a list of 11 recreational possibilities, “viewing nature” and “walking/hiking” were chosen as the most frequent park activities.
- Cincinnati residents visit a city park six times a year on average.

“We were very pleased with the results of the study,” said Steve Schuckman, Acting Director of Cincinnati Parks. “Public input is vital as we revisit the long-term strategic vision for Parks.”

In addition to the public opinion research study, the Park Board distributed a mail survey asking recipients to comment on *ParkWays*, the newsletter of Cincinnati Parks and Parks Foundation. Specifically,

Parks wanted to determine readership level, evaluate content and timeliness of articles and evaluate *ParkWays*’ influence on Parks event attendance.

A two-page survey with closed- and open-ended questions was mailed to 500 randomly-selected *ParkWays* recipients. After reviewing the basic data with the assistance of MTData, Parks concluded the following:

- The majority of *ParkWays* readers say they read every issue.
- More than 90 percent would like to continue to receive *ParkWays*.
- The majority of readers agree the newsletter provides useful and interesting information in a timely manner.
- Local newspapers and *ParkWays* serve as the two most popular sources of Parks information.

“*ParkWays* was created to serve as another method of communicating the mission of Parks and the opportunities within the Parks’ system for recreation, beautification and conservation,” said Schuckman. “With the survey results, we are reminded of the newsletter’s value to the community.”

ParkWays currently reaches more than 12,000 readers. ♦

Gone to the Dogs

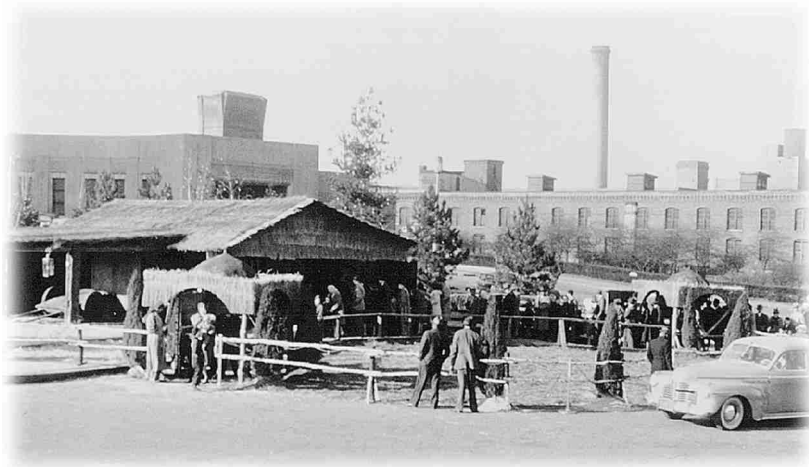
Cincinnati’s first and only dog park opened to the public on July 9, 1999 in Mt. Airy Forest’s High Point picnic area. Thanks to overwhelming support from members of Parks’ dog park committee, area dog owners and a \$7,500 grant from PETsMART Charities, Cincinnati Parks has, on a trial basis, developed approximately two acres of fenced area in Mt. Airy Forest for Cincinnati’s canine friends. The park is equipped with posted rules. Dogs may run leash-free in this dog park when accompanied by a guardian.

“If this pilot project at Mt. Airy Forest is successful, it could lead to further opportunities for privately-funded dog parks in other Cincinnati parks,” said Dave Prather, Manager of Planning and Design Services for Cincinnati Parks. ♦



The dog park is located off of Westwood Northern Boulevard between Montana Avenue and North Bend Road.

History in the Parks



A Cincinnati holiday tradition for decades, the crèche attracts families and friends from all over the Tri-State area. Sponsored by Western-Southern Life Insurance Co. and managed by the Biedenharn Family since its first appearance at Lytle Park in 1939, the crèche features live animals, including Jacob sheep. During World War II, the living nativity was moved to Union Terminal for the enjoyment of the thousands of people who traveled through Cincinnati during the holidays. (See above picture.) The crèche returned to Lytle Park in 1945 and, in 1967, traveled to its current location — Krohn Conservatory.

Central Riverfront Park Update



The 51-acre Central Riverfront Park will extend existing riverfront parks westward to areas surrounding the Bengal’s Paul Brown Stadium and the new Red’s stadium. Preliminary design is proceeding and features a river level Great Lawn, a seven-acre Festival Event Area, a carousel, interactive fountains, gardens, playgrounds and piers.

People in the Parks

Spears Elected to OFA Board



Ruth Ann Spears, Manager of Cincinnati Parks' Krohn Conservatory, recently was elected to serve a three-year term on the Ohio Florists Association (OFA) board of directors.

Spears is a five-year veteran of Cincinnati Parks. “She is a great asset to Krohn, introducing new ideas and spearheading events such as the annual Butterfly Show,” said Steve Schuckman, Acting Director of Cincinnati Parks.

Her responsibilities on the OFA board will include meeting and networking with industry peers and other leaders, promoting the Cincinnati Park Board’s visibility and awareness among these groups, and providing insight into industry trends.

Currently led by a 20-member board of directors and 200 industry leaders who serve on committees that guide all of the association’s activities, the OFA is involved in the floral industry through greenhouse growers, garden centers, retail florists, and interior plantscapers. Formed in 1929 by graduates of The Ohio State University, the OFA has more than 3,000 members and hosted more than 9,000 people at their annual education seminar and trade show in Columbus this year. ♦

Cincinnati Parks - A Model of Success

This past spring, delegates from the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Mayor's Office toured Cincinnati Parks. The group made the visit to Cincinnati as part of the Chicago Park District's review of successful national park systems.

Drew Becher, a former Cincinnati Parks intern who currently serves as the Assistant to the Mayor in Chicago, recommended Cincinnati to be included in the study. The delegation of six, which included Becher and the President of the Chicago Park District Board, studied elements such as

Cincinnati Parks' maintenance standards, level of community involvement, nature programming and capital improvement planning.

"The City of Cincinnati should be proud of its park system," said Becher. "Our group was impressed with what we saw and hopes to incorporate our findings into the enhancement of Chicago's parks."

Comprised of 548 parks that encompass 7,329 acres, the Chicago Park District also has reviewed urban parkland in Boston, New York and Pennsylvania. ♦



Chicago delegates at Bettman Natural Resource Center (left to right): Dan Purciarello, Chicago Park District, Project Manager; Cindy Mitchell, Mayor's Landscape Taskforce; Terry Teele, Office of the Mayor, Deputy Chief of Staff; Michael Scott, President of the Chicago Park Board; Alderman Mary Ann Smith, Chicago City Council, Chair Parks & Recreation; Drew Becher, Office of the Mayor, Assistant to the Mayor.

Advisory Council Honors Former Parks Director

This past July, the California Woods Advisory Council honored Dalton Battin, Director of Cincinnati Parks from 1966 to 1972, as he retired after 24 years of service to the advisory council. In celebration of Battin's knowledge and love for prairies and prairie plants, the advisory council dedicated to him a stone bench that sits along California Woods' Prairie Trail.

Although quiet and unassuming, Mr. Battin was a faithful and knowledgeable protector of the preserve and a constant supporter of the advisory council's goals of managing and conserving the 115 acres.

“Dalton was a priceless asset to the advisory council,” said Marian Lindberg, President of the Cincinnati Park Board. “His expertise in horticulture in general, and prairie plants in particular, provided us with an invaluable resource.” ♦

Above: Former Directors of Cincinnati Parks gather to celebrate Dalton Battin's years of service. (Left to right: Fred Payne, Jack Wilson and Dalton Battin)

Message from the Park Board

Dear *ParkWays* Readers:

As many of you may know, Jack Wilson, former Director of Cincinnati Parks, has taken a new position as the Executive Director for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington. The Cincinnati Park Board now faces the new challenge of finding an individual who can provide direction for the future of the Cincinnati Parks as well as Jack did throughout his 11-year career. This will not be a simple task.

Jack’s dedication and devotion to Cincinnati Parks brought this system from the point of financial crisis to our current position of stability with an immense potential for growth and development. Under Jack’s leadership, significant landmarks have been restored, important relationships have been cultivated with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, a Master Plan was drafted and is in the process of implementation, and the Parks Foundation is in place to make this implementation possible.

Jack was an effective administrator and invoked intense loyalty and respect from both his Board of Park Commissioners and his staff. We wish Jack and his family success in their new home of the Pacific Northwest. He will be greatly missed in Cincinnati.

Sincerely,

Marian J. Lindberg
President
Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners

Programs in the Parks

Parks Fall Activities

Nature Hikes

Fall Foliage Walk
LaBoiteaux Woods
October 16, 1 - 3 p.m.
Information, call 542-2909

*Magic Forest Halloween Hikes
Caldwell Nature Center
October 29 & 30, 7 - 9 p.m.
Information, call 321-6070

Birds and Breakfast
Avon Woods
November 6, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Information, call 861-3435

Tanglewood Trek
LaBoiteaux Woods
November 21, 1 - 3 p.m.
Information, call 542-2909

Autumn Crisp
Little Duck Creek
November 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Information, call 231-8678

Miscellaneous

*Planetarium Programs
Wolff Planetarium (Burnet Woods)
Second and fourth Fridays,
Oct. 8 - Dec. 10, 8 - 9 p.m.
Second and fourth Sundays,
Oct. 10 - Dec. 12, 3 - 4 p.m.
Information, call 321-6070

Discovery Days
Trailside Nature Center (Burnet Woods)
October 16 & 17, 1 - 4 p.m.
November 20 & 21, 1 - 4 p.m.
Information, call 751-3679

Early Encounters
Alms Park
October 8, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Information, call 861-3435

Green-Up Day Project
Caldwell Nature Center
October 9
Information, call 321-4362

*Autumn Shores (Canoe excursion)
Magrish Riverlands Preserve
October 10, 2 - 4 p.m.
Information, call 231-8678

Dying for a Drink
Krohn Conservatory
November 7; 12, 2 & 4 p.m.
Information, call 321-6070

Fall Harvest Fun Around the Fireside
LaBoiteaux Woods
November 12, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Information, call 542-2909

Thanksgiving Traditions
Trailside Nature Center
November 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Information, call 751-3679

*Holiday Crafts Workshops
Avon Woods
December 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Information, call 861-3435

LaBoiteaux Woods
December 10, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Information, call 542-2909

California Woods
December 11, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
Information, call 231-8678

Krohn Exhibits

For more information on Krohn exhibits, call 421-5707.

Fall Show: *Harvest Moon*
September 6 - November 14

Holiday Show:
A Cincinnati Holiday
November 25 - January 2

**Fee for admission.*

Always do right.

This will gratify

some people, and

astonish the rest.

-Mark Twain



A friend may well

be reckoned

the masterpiece

of nature.

-Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Visitors and Butterflies Abound at Krohn

The Cincinnati Parks' *Butterflies in Wonderland*, presented by The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation, marked another successful blockbuster at Krohn Conservatory. The storybook adventure combined American native butterflies with the absurd characters of "Alice in Wonderland" to create a magical experience under glass. Following are some fun facts about this year's show:

- 40,883 people visited the Butterfly Show during the eight-week time span.
- 60% of the visitors to the Show were from the Cincinnati area, while 29% "fluttered" in from more than 100 miles away.
- More than 8,000 butterflies filled the Showroom, representing 32 varieties of American native butterflies that danced among fantastical floral displays.
- 7,000-10,000 butterfly crafts were completed by Show visitors.
- 100 nature programs — conducted by Parks naturalists — entertained and educated butterfly enthusiasts of all ages.
- More than 400 volunteers helped make *Butterflies in Wonderland* one of the most successful blockbuster shows yet. ♦

City Re-Appoints Park Board Commissioner

The Cincinnati Park Board is pleased to announce the re-appointment of Howard Bond, Vice President of the Phoenix/Executech Group, to its board for another six-year term. In his second term with the Park Board, Bond will continue to support the organization and its efforts to maintain and enhance the Parks system.



Howard Bond

Since first being appointed to the Park Board in 1993, Bond has played an integral role in many

Parks activities. Several of the most recent projects he has supported include the planned Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park along the Ohio River and the naming of the Donald A. Spencer Overlook in Eden Park.

Bond, an Avondale resident, also serves as a board member of the Cincinnati Fire Museum and the Franciscan Home Development Foundation. ♦

Balluminaria Returns to Mirror Lake

The brilliant colors of illuminated hot air balloons will light up the December sky at Cincinnati Parks' Balluminaria, sponsored by Buffalo Wings & Rings. Scheduled for Dec. 4 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Eden Park's Mirror Lake, the event will feature a visit from Santa Claus, warm treats and holiday tunes sung by local groups. At dusk, tethered hot air balloons will inflate and create a dazzling light show as they reflect off Mirror Lake. Additional sponsors include WCPO-TV, Mix 94.1 and *CityBeat*. For more information, please call (513) 352-4080. ♦



Balluminaria

General Information:

Cincinnati Park Board

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 352-4080 (TTY)/ Fax: 352-4096
www.cinci-parks.org

Cincinnati Parks Foundation

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
357-2619 (TTY)/ Fax: 352-4096

Volunteering:

Cincinnati Parks Volunteers: 321-6208

Day Camps /
Classes with Park Naturalists:
321-6070

Krohn Conservatory:

421-4086

Reservations:

Picnic areas, shelters and bandstands:
352-4080

Alms, Ault and Mt. Echo pavilions;
French House; Mt. Airy lodges;
Krohn Conservatory; and wedding
areas: 351-4777

Special Use Permits:

352-4080

Information/Parks Visitor Center:
352-4080

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ParkWays

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Cincinnati Park Board • Cincinnati Parks Foundation
950 Eden Park Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Nature speaks

in symbols and

in signs.

-John Greenleaf
Whittier

